various components such as refining margins, marketing margins and pipeline margins etc. Such compensations are made in accordance with the various provisions duly approved by the Government from time to time under APM regime. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) have been allowing release of compensation accordingly. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C and AG) in its Report No. 2 of 2000 (Civil) has, however, observed that the Ministry of OCC have allowed over payment/undue benefits of Rs. 6321 crores to oil companies during the period 1993—98. As per the existing instructions in the matter, Action Taken Notes on the said Report is required to be furnished by the Ministry within four months. This time limit has not elapsed as yet.

Merger of Madras and Cochin Refineries with IOC and BPCL

887. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to merge Madras refineries and Cochin refineries with Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance to such proposal?

THE"MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIE. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint Sector Oil Refineries in Operation

888. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of joint sector oil refineries presently in operation;

(b) the details of such joint sector refineries, including their capacities and profitability;

(c) whether it is a fact that all joint sector refineries are undergoing huge losses;

(d) whether there is any possibility of such joint venture refineries becoming profitable;

(e) whether there is any danger of such refineries closing down;

(f)*the steps Government have taken to nourish such joint ventures; and

(g) the details of steps taken in the last three months in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The joint sector oil refinery presently in operation is Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Ltd. (MRPL) at Mangalore (Karnataka).

(b) MRPL with an installed capacity of 3.69 MMTPA was commissioned in March, 1996. With the commissioning of their second unit of 6.0 MMTPA in September, 1999, the capacity of refinery was further increased to 9.69 MMTPA.

(c) MRPL showed profit in 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, there was loss in 1999-2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(0 and (g) Does not arise. All refineries, including joint venture refineries are compensated for their controlled products at import parity based refinery gate prices. They are allowed to market their decontrolled products. MRPL is allowed to import its crude oil requirements itself.

Diesel Scam in Gujarat

889. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 1000 crores diesel scam has been reported *"m* ^Ci StpPL and HPCL in Gujarat in May, 2000;

(b) the procedure followed for levying sales tax on sale of diesel; and

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged